Anthony St. Laurent is sentenced to 56 months in prison for extortion conspiracy

A federal judge today sentenced **Anthony St. Laurent, Sr.** to 56 months in federal prison for conspiring to extort payments from two men.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court Providence. Judge Smith also sentenced St. Laurent to two years in prison for violating the terms of a supervised release from a 1999 federal extortion conviction. That sentence is to run concurrently with the 56-month sentence.

In July, St. Laurent, 65, of Johnston, pled guilty to a federal extortion charge. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that St. Laurent directed associates in April to collect $100,000 each from two men in Taunton, Massachusetts, and to "bash" them if they did not pay at least $50,000.

Last week, federal agents arrested three men who are charged with attempting to carry out St. Laurent's directives. According to an FBI affidavit supporting federal complaints, Ricky E. Silva, of North Providence, and James G. Manning, of Cranston, went to Taunton, where they met Larry W. Crites. The three then unsuccessfully searched for the two men out of whom they were to extort payments.

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In 1999, St. Laurent was sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for another extortion conspiracy. He was on supervised release from that sentence when he committed the current offense.

The FBI, Rhode Island State Police and Providence Police investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey prosecuted it, with assistance from Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha.

-30-

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